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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 15 January 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kanika PHOMMACHANH
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Communiqué from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

(Vientiane, 13 January 1993)

On 13 January 1993, in Paris, France, the United Nations, in cooperation with the French Government, is organizing a signing ceremony for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomes this major event.

As a full Member of the United Nations, the Lao People's Democratic Republic believes that disarmament in general and the reduction of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, in particular, are extremely important questions and constitute a prerequisite for the promotion of security, peace and mutual trust in international relations. The signing ceremony for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction marks an important historic milestone in the international community's efforts towards the gradual elimination of chemical weapons throughout the world.

In that spirit, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic takes this opportunity to reaffirm solemnly that, in the past as in the present, it has never had chemical weapons in its possession and has never used them. It declares that it will never use such weapons of destruction.

The Lao Government regrets that, for procedural reasons, it is unable at this time to participate in the signing ceremony and sign the Convention. That being the case, the Lao Government will take steps to expedite the procedure so as to be able to sign the Convention in the near future.